

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A SUBJECT Youth Activities in the Federation  
of Metallurgical Workers

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

Following is a summary translation of the Work Plan of the  
Central Youth Commission of the Federazione Impiegati Operei  
Metallurgici (FIOM; Federation of Metallurgical Workers):

1. The number of unemployed under the ages of 21 during the past year has increased as follows:

a. 1949: September 344,801                      October 350,905  
   November 271,172                      December 405,269  
b. 1950: January 418,718                      February 429,796

In the metallurgy industry, the number of youths under the ages of 18 as of December 1949 had decreased to 25,563, or 4.2 per cent of the workers, as compared to December 1948 with 27,781 youths employed, 4.4 per cent of all metallurgical workers.

2. This "anti-youth policy" is also evidenced by the fact that the average age of workers in the S. Giorgio Works in Genoa is 47 years. At present there are 26,000 apprentices employed in the metallurgical industries as compared to 80,000 in 1939 and approximately 400,000 in 1943. At the industrial congress held in Milan, FIOM showed concretely that the Italian metallurgical industry could use an additional 250,000 workers, including 100,000 young apprentices, which would decrease unemployment among the youth by 70-80,000.

3. While in the past ten years the metallurgical industry has developed considerably, and consequently there is a greater need for professional training, activity in this field has decreased. In 1941, there were 2,258 professional schools with 421,122 pupils; in 1948 there were only 2,143 schools with 310,000 students. There has also been a decrease in the Istituto Nazionale Addestramento e Perfezionamento Lavoratori Industrie (INAPLI) courses as follows:

a. 1940: 1,777 schools with 67,640 pupils  
b. 1947: 1,431 schools with 51,313 pupils  
c. 1948: 1,945 schools with 51,734 pupils

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The Fanfani plan has aided the Italian Government in its intention of liquidating INAPLI. Recently the Government allotted 50,000,000 lire for the activity of INAPLI whereas it was known that 70,000,000 lire were needed for the "apparat" alone. This ties in with the Government's intention of absorbing this type of activity into the Ministry of the Interior.

4. With the first 10 billion lire for the yard-schools of the unemployed the following were established:

- a. 400 INAPLI courses of which more than 200 organized by the Associazione Cristiana Lavoratori Italiani (ACLI; Christian Association of Italian Workers);
- b. 188 Ente Nazionale Assistenza Lavoratori (ENAL; National Workers Assistance Organization) courses;
- c. 194 commune courses (for the most part Christian Democratic);
- d. 182 various corporation courses (under Catholic Action);
- e. 128 courses at the Free Confederation of Labor;
- f. 209 courses at the Papal Relief Commission; and
- g. 37 courses at the Chamber of Labor.

Three quarters of the courses are run by the Christian Democratic Party and by Catholic Action and of 200,000 pupils, 150,000 are under this Catholic influence.

5. The great unemployment among the youth favors a production of war material and makes available many youths to be recruited into the various armed services to the advantage of American imperialism. At the present time, there are 22 Provincial FIOM Youth Commissions which function unsatisfactorily. The greatest defect of these Youth Commissions is that they do not know how to participate in the general activity of FIOM and how to establish strong bonds with the factories through the forming and the functioning of the Factory Youth Commissions. The ties with these Commissions and with the central FIOM are insufficient and weak. There are about 150 such Factory Commissions and here also the activity is irregular.
6. As of 31 August 1950 there were 25,431 FIOM members including unemployed and girls. These figures include membership of 41 provinces out of 63. In January 1950, there were only eight Provincial FIOM Youth Commissions and a few dozen Factory Youth Commissions. Lack of greater development is caused by the fact that the trade unions devote insufficient attention to youth matters, and by the inability of the FIOM Youth Commissions to take decisive action in directing the young metallurgical workers.
7. Efforts must be concentrated on the following elements of the FIOM Work Plan:
  - a. The struggle for peace and the strengthening of the Partisans of Peace Movement, including vigilance against the production of war material;
  - b. The re-examination of the categories and the regularization of individual licenses, so as to defend one's job. It is also requested, since the young apprentices are paid a percentage of what their employers make, and the pay of qualified workers has increased, that other young workers be paid a minimum as follows:

(1) Employees under 21 years of age

(a) Third Category 2,160 lire a month

(b) Third Category B 1,350 lire a month

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## (2) Workers under 21 years of age

- (a) Specialized laborers from 18 to 21 years of age - 29 lire per day.
- (b) Specialized laborers from 16 to 18 years of age - 22 lire per day.
- (c) Specialized laborers, women under 20 years of age - 24 lire per day.

c. An inquiry into matters concerning the working youth and assembling the Assizes of working youth. The organizing of Provincial Assizes should be the crux of FIOM youth activity. Through recent efforts the following results have been obtained:

- (1) Employment of 700 apprentices at the Officine Meccaniche in Brescia;
- (2) The opening of a requalification school in the Ancona shipyards;
- (3) The taking on of 15 unemployed youths in Genoa; and
- (4) The enrolling of 1,000 unemployed youths in the FIOM of which, in Turin, 253 found employment.

The inquiries are for the purpose of studying problems, determining youth demands and the struggle of the youth to obtain their requests. The Assizes should coordinate this activity.

d. The development of social, recreational, athletic, and cultural activity on the part of the trade unions, so as to reach a greater number of youths. This problem has two fundamental aspects:

- (1) To obtain from the industrialists and from their organs a just contribution for recreation and for the physical development of the workers; and
- (2) The fact that the syndical organization must place itself at the vanguard of this activity. The Unione Italiana Sport Popolari (UISP; Italian Union of Popular Sport) has been organized to promote sports but alone it is not sufficient. In order to further such activity the donation of a FIOM cup should be instituted to be given to the Provincial Section which has shown the greatest initiative in the field of sports and recreation. This cup would be awarded each year at some major recreational event. A FIOM banner could be awarded as second prize and a FIOM certificate as third prize. Not more than 500,000 lire should be spent on prizes. By September 1951, a sport competition could be held, instigated by FIOM and organized by UISP. At this time the FIOM cup could be awarded.

Through Giovanni Rovada, Secretary-General of FIOM, the Central Committees of FIOM should launch an appeal to all young metallurgical workers to struggle for the above-cited objectives. By the beginning of 1951 the struggle should reach a national level.

e. The most serious deficiency is the lack of continuous activity on the part of the FIOM and the Factory Youth Commissions. Largely a result

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of the lack of clarity concerning the functions and the tasks of these Youth Commissions, which should act with a certain autonomy of initiative. The syndical Youth Commissions must become effective instruments in drawing certain youth strata to the cause of the working class. The weak ties between the FIOM Youth Commissions and the factories must be strengthened through the Factory Youth Commissions in which all youth currents must be represented. These Factory Youth Commissions are the indispensable instruments which carry out the directives at the base and thus constantly control the directing organs. They are the principal nuclei for the realizing of the United Italian Youth Front.

9. For the small or medium sized factories, international district, or zone Youth Commissions should be formed, including representatives of all workshops in that locality. The distribution of the syndical press must be carried out by the FIOM and all Youth Commissions with greater energy. The number of syndical youth activists must be increased. Relations with the Central Youth Commission of the FIOM and the Provincial Commissions must be strengthened, not only by more frequent letters and circulars, but also by a more frequent and rapid activity of the responsible head of the Central Youth Commission directed toward the Provinces.
10. In order to discuss and carry out this work plan, it is requested that the National Secretariat of the FIOM hold a meeting with the Central Youth Commission, inviting to these meetings the responsible comrade of the National Youth Commission of the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL; Italian General Confederation of Labor) so that all can discuss together and decide how to carry out the Work Plan. It will be necessary to send a circular to the FIOM Secretariats and Youth Commissions and to call a series of regional meetings in which should participate, in addition to the youths, at least one member of the Provincial FIOM Directing Committee. These meetings would have the purpose of defining the activity, discussing how to carry it out and establishing objectives and commitments to be realized provincially.
11. In summarizing the Work Plan the following are requested:
  - a. The launching of the Assizes of Italian Metallurgical Youth Workers by the first week in November 1950. This should take place through an appeal by the Secretary-General of the FIOM, Giovanni Roveda, to all employed or unemployed Italian metallurgical youth workers. In the appeal should be listed the fundamental demands which FIOM sets forth for the youth and concerning which the provincial and then the national Assizes should discuss and organize the struggle. The FIOM appeal should close by calling the youth to the struggle and assuring it that it has the support and the approval of the FIOM and of all Italian metallurgical workers.
  - b. The calling of a series of regional or inter-regional meetings of the FIOM Youth Commissions to define this great undertaking and to fix provincially work obligations and objectives to be attained.
  - c. The development of vast propaganda in regard to the Assizes of the metallurgical youth so that also under this aspect they will be successful, establishing and clarifying constantly the principal demands of the metallurgical youth.
  - d. The instituting of the FIOM cup for sports and recreational activity after organizing a competition and publicizing this important enterprise among all the trade unions.

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12. Obligations of the Central FIOM Youth Committee are as follows:

- a. The Central FIOM Youth Commission, after discussion and approval by the National FIOM Secretariat, obligates itself and consequently obligates all FIOM Youth Commissions each to recruit 30 new FIOM members in 1951 in order to strengthen more and more the unified organization of Italian metallurgical workers and in order to confront future struggles with greater strength;
- b. In addition there is the obligation to establish and make effective new FIOM and Factory Youth Commissions, bringing the FIOM Youth Commissions from 22, existing at present, to 37 and the Factory Youth Commissions from 150 to 500; and
- c. Every effort must be made to increase the distribution of the syndical press so that it reaches thousands of new readers. Objectives for the distribution of Lavoro and Gioventu al Lavoro will be established.

The carrying out of these specific obligations means the strengthening of the entire FIOM in all fields of activity to bring new youth efforts to the struggle for work and the future of the metallurgical industry. It is with a full sense of responsibility for the important objectives established and the considerable obligations undertaken that the Central FIOM Youth Commission assures the National Secretariat that these will be maintained and realized.

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